

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please amend the claims as described below. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, a complete listing of all claims in the application is provided below. Notably, the status of each claim is indicated in the parenthetical expression adjacent to the claim number.

Claims 1 - 8 (canceled).

1 1. (currently amended) A method of acoustically monitoring a wind power
2 installation that generates electrical power, wherein the wind power installation includes
3 ~~having~~ a plurality of components including at least rotor blades, the method comprising:
4 detecting an operating acoustic spectrum generated by at least one of the
5 components during operation of the wind power installation;
6 comparing the operating acoustic spectrum to a reference acoustic spectrum;
7 detecting a deviation between the operating acoustic spectrum and the reference
8 acoustic spectrum; ~~and~~
9 detecting whether the deviation between the operating acoustic spectrum and the
10 reference acoustic spectrum exceeds a threshold; and
11 communicating audible sounds which caused the deviation between the operating
12 acoustic spectrum and the reference acoustic spectrum to a remote monitoring center when
13 the deviation between the operating acoustic spectrum and the reference acoustic
14 spectrum exceeds the threshold.

1 2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the reference acoustic
2 spectrum is an acoustic spectrum produced by the component during normal operation.

1 3 ~~11~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~9~~ wherein the reference acoustic
2 spectrum is an acoustic spectrum that is expected to be generated by the component
3 during normal operation.

1 4 ~~12~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~9~~ wherein when the deviation
2 between the operating acoustic spectrum and the reference acoustic spectrum exceeds the
3 threshold, the operation of the wind power installation is automatically or manually
4 terminated.

1 5 ~~13~~. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ further including:
2 repetitively detecting the operating acoustic spectrum generated by the component
3 of the wind power installation;
4 repetitively comparing the detected operating acoustic spectrums to a reference
5 acoustic spectrum; and
6 detecting whether the comparison between the detected operating acoustic
7 spectrums to a reference acoustic spectrum exceeds a threshold.

1 6 ~~14~~. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~9~~ further including:
2 continuously detecting the operating acoustic spectrum generated by the component
3 of the wind power installation;
4 comparing the detected operating acoustic spectrums to a reference acoustic
5 spectrum; and

6 detecting whether the comparison between the detected operating acoustic
7 spectrums to a reference acoustic spectrum exceeds a threshold.

1 ⁵ ~~7~~ 15. (currently amended) The method of claims ⁶ ~~13~~ and ~~or 14~~ further including
2 generating an acoustic spectrum database using the detected operating acoustic
3 spectrums.

1 ⁸ ~~8~~ 16. (currently amended) A method of acoustically monitoring a wind power
2 installation that generates electrical power, wherein the wind power installation includes
3 ~~having a~~ plurality of components including at least rotor blades, the method comprising:
4 detecting a first operating acoustic spectrum generated by at least one component
5 during operation of the wind power installation at a first power output level;
6 detecting a second operating acoustic spectrum generated by the component during
7 operation of the wind power installation at a second power output level;
8 comparing the first operating acoustic spectrum to a first reference acoustic
9 spectrum;
10 comparing the first operating acoustic spectrum to a second reference acoustic
11 spectrum;
12 detecting whether a deviation between the first operating acoustic spectrum and the
13 first reference acoustic spectrum exceeds a first threshold; ~~and~~
14 detecting whether a deviation between the second operating acoustic spectrum and
15 the ~~first~~ second reference acoustic spectrum exceeds a second threshold;
16 communicating audible sounds which caused the deviation between the first
17 operating acoustic spectrum and the first reference acoustic spectrum to a remote

18 monitoring center if the deviation between the first operating acoustic spectrum and the first
19 reference acoustic spectrum exceeds the first threshold; and
20 communicating audible sounds which caused the deviation between the second
21 operating acoustic spectrum and the second reference acoustic spectrum to the remote
22 monitoring center if the deviation between the second operating acoustic spectrum and the
23 second reference acoustic spectrum exceeds the second threshold.

1 9 ~~17~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ⁸16 wherein the first reference
2 acoustic spectrum is the acoustic spectrum produced by the component during normal
3 operation and while the wind power installation is operating at the first power output level.

1 10 ~~18~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ⁹17 wherein the second reference
2 acoustic spectrum is the acoustic spectrum produced by the component during normal
3 operation and while the wind power installation is operating at the first power output level.

1 11 ~~19~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ⁸16 wherein the first reference
2 acoustic spectrum is an acoustic spectrum that is expected to be generated by the
3 component during normal operation and while the wind power installation is operating at
4 the first power output level.

1 12 ~~20~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ¹¹19 wherein the second reference
2 acoustic spectrum is an acoustic spectrum that is expected to be generated by the
3 component during normal operation and while the wind power installation is operating at
4 the second power output level.

8

1 ~~13~~ ~~21~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~18~~ wherein when the deviation
2 between the first operating acoustic spectrum and the first reference acoustic spectrum
3 exceeds the first threshold, the operation of the wind power installation is automatically or
4 manually terminated.

8

1 ~~14~~ ~~22~~. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~18~~ wherein when the deviation
2 between the second operating acoustic spectrum and the second reference acoustic
3 spectrum exceeds the second threshold, the operation of the wind power installation is
4 automatically or manually terminated.

8 14

1 ~~15~~ ~~23~~. (currently amended) The method of claims ~~18~~ and or ~~22~~ wherein the first
2 threshold is equal to the second threshold.

1 ~~16~~ ~~24~~. (currently amended) A method of acoustically monitoring a wind power
2 installation that generates electrical power, wherein the wind power installation includes
3 ~~having~~ a plurality of components including at least rotor blades, the method comprising:
4 recording a first noise spectrum generated by at least one component during
5 operation of the wind power installation at a first output power level;
6 comparing the first noise spectrum to a first reference noise spectrum;
7 detecting deviations between the first noise spectrum and the first reference noise
8 spectrum;
9 communicating the deviations to a remote monitoring center; and

10 communicating ~~signals representative of the~~ audible sounds that caused the
11 deviations between the first noise spectrum and the first reference noise spectrum to the
12 remote monitoring center.

1 17 25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24¹⁶ further including continuously
2 or repetitively recording noise spectrums generated by the at least one component during
3 operation of the wind power installation.

1 18 26. (currently amended) The method of claim 24¹⁶ further including generating an
2 acoustic spectrum database using ~~the~~ recorded noise spectrums.

1 19 27. (previously presented) The method of claim 24¹⁶ wherein the wind power
2 installation is shut down if the deviations between the first noise spectrum and the first
3 reference noise spectrum exceed a predetermined threshold value.

1 20 28. (previously presented) The method of claim 24¹⁶ further including:
2 recording a second noise spectrum generated by the at least one component during
3 operation of the wind power installation at a second output power level;
4 comparing the second noise spectrum to a second reference noise spectrum;
5 detecting deviations between the second noise spectrum and the second reference
6 noise spectrum;
7 communicating the deviations to a remote monitoring center; and

8 communicating signals representative of the sounds that caused the deviations
9 between the second noise spectrum and the second reference noise spectrum to the
10 remote monitoring center.

1 ~~21~~ ²⁰ 29. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~28~~ wherein:
2 the first reference noise spectrum is a noise spectrum produced by the component
3 during normal operation and while the wind power installation is operating at a first power
4 output level; and
5 the second reference noise spectrum is the noise spectrum produced by the
6 component during normal operation and while the wind power installation is operating at a
7 second power output level.

1 30. (canceled)

1 ~~22~~ ²⁰ 31. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~28~~ wherein:
2 the first reference noise spectrum is a noise spectrum that is expected to be
3 generated by the component during normal operation and while the wind power installation
4 is operating at the first power output level; and
5 the second reference noise spectrum is a noise spectrum that is expected to be
6 generated by the component during normal operation and while the wind power installation
7 is operating at the second power output level.

1 32. (canceled)

1 ¹⁶ ~~23~~ 23. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~24~~ wherein when the deviation
2 between the first operating acoustic spectrum and the first reference acoustic spectrum
3 exceeds a predetermined threshold value, the operation of the wind power installation is
4 automatically or manually terminated.

1 ¹⁶ ~~24~~ 24. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~24~~ wherein when the deviation
2 between the second operating acoustic spectrum and the second reference acoustic
3 spectrum exceeds a predetermined threshold value, the operation of the wind power
4 installation is automatically or manually terminated.

1 ¹ ~~25~~ 25. (new) The method of claim ~~8~~ further including communicating the deviation
2 between the operating acoustic spectrum and the reference acoustic spectrum to the
3 remote monitoring center when the deviation exceeds the threshold.

1 ⁸ ~~26~~ 26. (new) The method of claim ~~16~~ further including:
2 communicating the deviation between the first operating acoustic spectrum and the
3 first reference acoustic spectrum to the remote monitoring center when the deviation
4 exceeds the first threshold; and
5 communicating the deviation between the second operating acoustic spectrum and
6 the second reference acoustic spectrum to the remote monitoring center when the
7 deviation exceeds the second threshold.